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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PERU: GOVERNMENT EXPROPRIATES MARCONA

CITING NONPAYMENT OF TAXES AS ITS JUSTIFICATION, THE MILITARY JUNTA ANNOUNCED ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 24 THE EXPROPRIATION OF THE US-OWNED MARCONA MINING COMPANY. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT THIS HASTY AND ILL-ADVISED DECISION RAISES SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE GOP'S INTENTIONS IN FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. TAKEN ON THE EVE OF PERU'S INDEPENDENCE DAY, THE ACTION IS POSSIBLY ANOTHER IMPETUOUS MOVE BY PRESIDENT VELASCO WHICH HE CAN NOW HAIL AS A REVOLUTIONARY ACCOMPLISHMENT. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LIMA 5979, 7/24 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA 5983 7/24.)

2. THE AZORES MOVES TOWARDS AUTONOMY

AZORES MILITARY GOVERNOR GENERAL MAGALHAES WILL FORM A SIX-SECRET

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MEMBER GOVERNING BOARD (JUNTA) TO DRAFT A STATUTE OF ADMIN-

ISTRATIVE AUTONOMY DETERMINING THE FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. MAGALHAES IS EXPECTED TO CHOOSE ONLY PS, MDP, AND PPD, MEMBERS, WHILE THE PCP, MDP AND MES IN AN ATTEMPTED END RUN ARE PRESENTING THEIR OWN CANDIDATES IN LISBON TO THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. THE PARTY PREFERENCES ARE:

--THE PPD LEADERS WILL ACCEPT THE JUNTA ONLY AS A TRANSITIONAL BODY LEADING TO AUTONOMY; IT WOULD OTHERWISE SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE IF THE GOP REFUSES TO GRANT AUTONOMY OR IF THE JUNTA COMES UNDER EXTREME LEFTIST CONTROL.

--THE PCP FAVORS INDEPENDENCE AND BELIEVES US CONCERN FOR A COMMUNIST PORTUGAL WOULD BE REDUCED IF THE US WERE ASSURED RETENTION OF THE LAJES BASE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE GOP FACES A DIFFICULT CHOICE. IT CAN GIVE THE AZORES THE AUTONOMY ADVOCATED BY THE PPD, RELINQUISHING ITS ABILITY TO EXTEND THE REVOLUTION TO THE AZORES. OR, IT CAN ATTEMPT TO PACIFY THE ARCHIPELAGO WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY, KEEPING DECISION-MAKING POWER IN LISBON BUT RISKING THE GROWTH OF THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) PONTA DELGADA 265 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 4185 (LIMDIS), 7/24.)

3. PORTUGAL: MODERATES REMAIN HOPEFUL OF SUCCESS

PPD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GUERREIRO TOLD AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI THAT HE SEES TWO POSSIBLE SCENARIOS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS:

--GONCALVES WINS AND THE MODERATES LEAVE THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, JOINING THE PS AND PPD IN OPPOSITION.

--THE MODERATES WIN AND GONCALVES ATTEMPTS TO ENLIST THE MILITARY ON HIS SIDE.

GUERREIRO ALSO SAID THAT COSTA GOMES' POSITION REMAINS UNCLEAR BUT IN ANY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL VOTE, HE WILL PROBABLY SIDE WITH WHOMEVER HE CALCULATES TO BE THE MOST LIKELY WINNER.

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IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

--GONCALVES, CONTINUING HIS EFFORTS TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT, MET WITH HIS INNER CABINET TO DISCUSS A GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION BASED ON THE PROPOSED "DIRECTORATE PLAN" AND THE FORMATION OF A POPULAR UNITY FRONT COMPRISING THE PCP, MDP, MES AND DISSIDENT SOCIALISTS.

--THE PS AND FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES, ENCOURAGED BY A LOPSIDED VOTE AGAINST GONCALVES IN THE JULY 22 INFANTRY CAUCUS HELD TO PREPARE FOR THE AFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY, REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT GONCALVES CAN BE OUSTED.

--THE MODERATES ARE TRYING TO TELL COSTA GOMES THAT EACH TIME HE LETS AN OPPORTUNITY SLIDE BY, IT BECOMES THAT MUCH HARDER TO REMOVE GONCALVES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IF MELO ANTUNES AND THE RC "MODERATES" DO NOT MOVE NOW THEY ARE LIKELY TO FIND THEIR STRENGTH AND RESOLVE DISSIPATED. THE INFANTRY CAUCUS VOTE NOTWITHSTANDING, AN AFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTE, IS LIKELY TO BE MANIPULATED TO GIVE GONCALVES A STRONG VOTE OF CONFIDENCE -- WEAKENING THE HAND OF THE RC MODERATES AND SAPPING ANY POSSIBLE INCLINATION OF COSTA GOMES TO SUPPORT AN EFFORT TO OUST THE PRIME MINISTER. (SECRET) LISBON 4174 (EXDIS), (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 4184 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 4179 (EXDIS), 7/24.)

4. SPANISH SAHARA

A. SPAIN: THE ALGERIAN POINT OF VIEW

DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR STABLER, THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THE GOA'S POSITION ON THE SAHARA HAD BEEN FROM THE BEGINNING AND STILL IS THAT OF FULL SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE. THE AMBASSADOR:

--NOTED THAT AS RECENTLY AS 1973, ALGERIA, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA HAD SIGNED A COMMUNIQUE SUPPORTING THIS PRINCIPLE;

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--STRESSED THAT ALGERIA HAS NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN THE SAHARA AND CONSIDERS THAT ITS BORDER PROBLEMS WITH MOROCCO ARE SETTLED;

--IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO BY CONTRASTING THE TWO POSITIONS ON SELF-DETERMINATION.

THE AMBASSADOR ALSO CRITICIZED THE GOS'S FAILURE TO DO ANYTHING UNTIL RECENTLY TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR SELF-DETERMINATION. HE STATED THAT THE GOS WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO PULL OUT BEFORE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR A UN REFERENDUM IN THE SAHARA.

B. MOROCCO: ANOTHER ALGERIAN HEARD FROM

THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR NEUMANN THAT, FOLLOWING THE BOUTEFLIKA VISIT, THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH MOROCCO AND IF "MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO REALLY HAVE AN

AGREEMENT" ON THE SAHARA, ALGERIA WOULD NOT DISRUPT IT. HE ALSO AGREED THAT THE SPANISH POSITION WAS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN, PERHAPS DUE TO THE PROMINENT ROLE BEING PLAYED BY AN AGING FRANCO.

C. THE MAURITANIA/MOROCCO CONNECTION

EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT REPORTS THAT IN CONTRAST TO REPEATED PUBLIC PROTESTATIONS OF COMPLETE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO IS FAR FROM SETTLED. MOREOVER, IN THE PARTICULAR CASE OF THE SAHARA, THE PERSISTENCE OF VAGUE GENERALITIES ON ITS PARTITION SUGGEST STRONGLY THAT THERE IS NO AGREED MAP. THE EMBASSY CAUTIONS THAT THE "TOTAL SOLIDARITY" OF THE NEWLY RECONCILED BROTHERS IS BOUND TO RUN INTO SOME VERY ROCKY STRETCHES ALONG THE DESERT TRACK OF A LIBERATED SAHARA AND THE US WOULD BE WISE TO KEEP WELL OUT OF THE INEVITABLE SIBLING SQUABBLES. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 5154, (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 3589 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) NOUAKCHOTT 1479, 7/24.)

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE175624
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: PERSIKO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750257-0267
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750721/aaaaasjz.tel
Line Count: 201
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, PGOV, PBOR, PE, PO, SS, SP, MO, MR
To: JCS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006